

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

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IO-13 /066 W

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R 141500Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7633

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7911

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICNAF, EFIS, PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: ICNAF ANNUAL MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 9803 (B) ROME 7503

1. EMBASSY AGAIN RAISED QUESTION OF VENUE FOR FORTHCOMING ICNAF MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY (SCAGLIA, HEAD OF OFFICE I, DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS) MAY 13. ACCORDING TO SCAGLIA, MFA HAS CHECKED WITH VARIOUS (UNSPECIFIED) GOVERNMENT ON THEIR REACTION TO THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL THAT ALTERNATIVE SITE BE FOUND. SCAGLIA TOLD EMIN THAT NONE OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS CONTACTED IS WILLING TO SEEK CHANGE IN PLANS TO HOLD MEETING IN HAVANA AS SCHEDULED, OUT OF RELUCTANCE TO OFFEND CUBAN GOVERNMENT AND/OR LACK OF TIME BEFORE MEETING TO WORK OUT OTHER ARRANGEMENTS. SCAGLIA ASSERTED THAT GOI DESIRES TO ASSIST USG ON THIS ISSUE, BUT APPARENT LACK OF SUPPORT MAKES THAT VERY DIFFICULT. SCAGLIA EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS ONLY EXPRESSING PERSONAL VIEWS AND THAT FORMAL REPLY HAD NOT YET BEEN PREPARED.

2. APART FROM FACT THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL CONTINUE TO BE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE ELCTORAL CAMPAIGN, WE THINK IT CLEAR THAT GOI WOULD LIKE TO DUCK THIS ISSUE AND, IN ANY CASE, WILL BE UNWILLING TO TAKE LEADING ROLE IN SEEKING CHANGE IN VENUE. THE MOST WE COULD HOPE FOR AT THE POINT IS CONCURRENCE IN COMMON
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EC POSITIONS, BUT, ACCORDING TO SCAGLIA, THERE IS NO SUPPORT

WITHIN EC FOR OUR PROPOSAL.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: ANY FURTHER INFORMATION OR GUIDANCE ON
THIS ISSUE WHICH MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN OUR FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS
WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY.VOLPE

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